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THE MAY ART CONVENTIONS

Each year the Annual Convention of The American Federation of Arts brings together from all over the country a notable group of people who are interested in art development in the broadest sense. This year the tenth annual convention was held at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, on May fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth.

The first day's sessions were devoted to "War Memorials," a subject of supreme importance nationally and to every town in the country where the patriotic enthusiasm and gratitude for the supreme service rendered is already too often leading to misguided and inartistic memorials. The importance of the subject is indicated by the list of speakers, which included Charles Moore, Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts, Edwin H. Blashfield, Frederick Law Olmstead, Hon. Elihu Root and Cass Gilbert, while the discussion brought out expressions from others whose opinions were of great value.

The morning session of the second day was devoted to reports of the Federation officers and others having suggestions as to possible development of its activities, and made clear the importance of the work done by the Federation and the almost unlimited possibilities of extending its usefulness—particularly in communities without established art centers.

Friday afternoon was devoted to "Art and Labor," with addresses by Henry W. Kent, Joseph Pennell and Gerrit A. Beneker, the latter known to many of our readers as the artist employed by the Hydraulic Pressed Steel Company to interpret its ideal to the employees, and whose picture "Men Are Square" has been shown in the Special Exhibition Cabinet during May and June. Mr. Whiting was asked to show illustrations of some of Mr. Beneker's industrial paintings and to explain something of his work in the Cleveland factory.

This session brought out very clearly the importance of a closer relation between art and industry and the great part which museums and schools must play in the development of American industry, if the fullest advantage is taken of the present opportunity to raise the standard of our products.

The closing session on Saturday morning was devoted to "Art and the Nation." Hon. Charles D. Walcott reported on the development of "A National Gallery of Art in Washington" and

told of the progress of the new building being erected to house the splendid Freer collection. Mr. F. W. Reynolds told what the government is doing to promote visual instruction, through the agency of the Bureau of Education.

The closing address was by Thomas Whitney Surette on "Music in Relation to the Other Arts in Art Museums," in which he explained his belief as to the vital place music should hold in the life of the normal person, illustrating his points by reference to the work done in the Cleveland Museum. Dr. Edward Robinson, who presided, gave an enthusiastic account of the success of the series of concerts given at the Metropolitan by an orchestra organized and conducted by David Mannes, who placed no restriction as to movement of the audience, etc., and made the music itself, rather than the conductor and the orchestra, of first importance. Mr. Mannes was introduced and spoke briefly of his hope that music would be recognized as, in its finest forms, most suitable for an art museum. He urged the installation of fine organs in museums, as being perhaps the most impersonal way in which splendid music can be rendered.

Delegates to the convention were invited to visit the houses of Mr. Henry Clay Frick and Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, and of Senator William A. Clark and Mr. George Blumenthal, at both of which organ programs were rendered.

The meetings of The American Association of Museums were held in Philadelphia on May nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first. As this association embraces museums of all kinds, the subjects treated cover a very wide range, but are of unusual interest. There were special sessions devoted to education, the papers of which were of great variety and benefit. Another session was devoted to "Music in Museums" at which reports were submitted from seven different cities and followed by interesting discussion. Philadelphia is rich in museums, and the delegates had many opportunities to see these. Cleveland visitors were especially interested to visit The Pennsylvania Museum, whose Director, Langdon Warner, was formerly Field Agent for The Cleveland Museum of Art.

It is hoped that another year more of the members of the Museum may be interested to attend these conferences, which offer an unusual opportunity for all interested in art development or in museum and educational problems.

F.A.W.